GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3681
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
SUPPLY OF INFERIOR QUALITY OF FOODSTUFFS IN TRAINS
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that on railway platforms, private catering contractors/ vendors, do supply the inferior quality of foodstuffs, although there are sanitary/health inspectors;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that lesser quantity of foodstuffs are supplied to passengers than price charged from them and vendors refuse to weigh the foodstuffs ;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check this ;

(d) if not, whether the Government would authorise the Chief Medical Officers of the districts to conduct surprise checks and take samples with the help of G.R.P. ;

(e) whether the Government would make mandatory provision for the vendors to weigh the foodstuffs including tea/coffee etc. while supplying to customers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (c): Railways have taken adequate measures to ensure supply of good quality food to passengers. Regular inspections and surprise checks of catering units are conducted by officers and supervisory staff to ensure that less quantity of food is not being served to the passengers and deterrent action is being taken against the defaulter.

(d) Railways have their own infrastructure to deal with offenders under the PFA Act and necessary monitoring mechanisms are in place.

(e) & (f): Inspections are being conducted at regular intervals by Commercial and Health Officials to ensurethat the quality of eatables and beverages is as per the standards prescribed. Samples of food and beverages are checked regularly to ensure quality under the PFA Act.